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PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 26 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter from Mr. Anatoly M. Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, addressed to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. H. D. Genscher, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, dated 12 December 1991 (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Gennady I. UDOVENKO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 12 December 1991 to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

I have the honour to inform you in your capacity as Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) that Ukraine has decided to accede to the Final Act, signed at Helsinki in 1975, and to become a direct participant in CSCE.

In informing you of this decision I should like to note that it was taken in accordance with the "Final recommendations of the Helsinki consultations", in particular paragraphs 54 and 65 of these recommendations, in which it is stated that all European States, the United States and Canada shall be entitled to take part in CSCE and that they shall do so as sovereign and independent States and in conditions of full equality.

The All-Ukrainian Referendum of 1 December 1991 confirmed the Act proclaiming the independence of Ukraine, thereby convincingly demonstrating the desire of the people of sovereign Ukraine to have an independent State of their own. If the CSCE process is to further unite all the European States around common principles and actions, Ukraine must become a direct participant.

Ukraine has repeatedly raised the issue of its being afforded the possibility of taking direct part in the CSCE process. In particular, this issue was raised by Mr. L. M. Kravchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in his message to the participants of the all-European Summit in Paris in November 1990.

On 5 December 1991, in its address "To Parliaments and Peoples of the World", the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine emphasized that independent Ukraine was ready to accede to the Final Act of Helsinki, the Charter of Paris and other CSCE documents. The Verkhovna Rada called on the parliaments and governments of the CSCE States to support the intention of Ukraine to become a direct and full-fledged participant in the all-European process.

Ukraine fully shares and supports the purposes and principles of the basic CSCE documents and will do its utmost to put them into practice, using its experience as a long-time member of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Ukrainian State believes that its immediate inclusion in the CSCE process will help it reliably strengthen its external security, which is indissolubly linked with the creation of a system of collective security in Europe. Ukraine's active participation in all-round European cooperation will create favourable conditions for the solution of its economic problems, and

the successful building of a civilian society based on the principles of pluralistic democracy in which the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rights of national minorities, will be fully realized.

In turn, the building of a united, peaceful and prosperous Europe undoubtedly needs the direct participation of Ukraine, as a major European State which is ready to assume all obligations and responsibilities resulting from its admission to the CSCE process. As is pointed out in the Declaration of the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of 22 November 1991 concerning the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Ukraine - one of the successor States to the former USSR - regards it as obligatory for itself to implement the provisions of the Treaty in respect of all armed forces located in its territory. Ukraine states that its armed forces fall within the purview of the Treaty and considers its direct participation in the CSCE as an important condition for the effective fulfillment of the obligations resulting for it from the provisions of the Treaty.

Ukraine strictly adheres to its own decision to become a non-nuclear State. The deployment in its territory of nuclear weapons, which remain under unified centralized control, is only temporary. Ukraine will consistently pursue its policy aimed at the full destruction of these weapons and of the components of their deployment in the shortest possible time and at acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible as a non-nuclear State.

I should like to express the conviction that you, Mr. Chairman, will view with understanding Ukraine's decision to become a direct participant of the CSCE process and will help make it possible for Ukraine to take its place among the CSCE participating States at the next meeting of the CSCE Council on 30-31 January 1992 at Prague. If need be I would be prepared to exchange views with you on the above issues.

I request you, Mr. Chairman, to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the representatives of the participating States in the CSCE Council.

Anatoly M. Zlenko
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine